



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held November 21, 2006, the Board took the following action:

76-A

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“On November 29, 2005, the Board of Supervisors instructed the Department of Health Services (DHS) in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Public Social Services, Department of Mental Health, and the Sheriff’s Department to develop discharge policies and procedures of homeless patients from DHS hospitals. For over a year now, DHS has developed and implemented standardized policies for discharging homeless patients from DHS hospitals.

“However, allegations of a DHS hospital inappropriately discharging a homeless patient have recently surfaced. According to DHS, personnel followed the appropriate procedures in discharging its patient. The assigned social worker sought to secure a recuperative bed for the patient prior to discharge, but no beds were immediately available. The Department planned to have the patient remain at the hospital until a recuperative bed was secured. However, the patient requested to be discharged to a hotel located in downtown Skid Row. DHS was required to respond favorably to the request and followed appropriate discharge policies and procedures by providing photo identification, a walker, and taxi transportation. Although DHS followed its procedures in this case, this is an opportunity to reexamine and potentially enhance our homeless patient discharge protocols.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Molina being absent), the Director of Health Services was instructed to review and reassess current policies and procedures for discharging homeless patients, and provide additional recommendations, if warranted, for improving current Department of Health Services’ protocols, particularly in transportation services; and report back to the Board within 30 days.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Health Services